Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05471 181025Z

21
ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01

INSE-00 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-01 PER-01 ABF-01 NSC-05 OMB-01

/057 W
---------- 032390
R 180903Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9172
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 5471

FOR VO, NEA

E.O. 11652: N/
TAGS: CGEN
SUBJECT: LEBANESE CRISIS AND CONSULAR WORKLOAD IN DAMASASCUS

REF: STATE 190983

1. SUMMARY. WHILE NEW SYRIAN POLICY ON BORDER CORSSING HAS MONMETARILY SLOWED CONSULATE WORKLOAD, WE EXPECT THAT LARGE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS WILL STILL BE ABLE TO REACH DAMASCUS FOR NIV AND IV SERVCIES. ANTICIPATED DEMAND, PARTICULARLY FOR IV'S, WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STAFF. END SUMMARY.

2. BEFORE NEW BORDER POLICY WAS IMPLMEENTED AUGUST 13, CONSULAR SECTION WAS AVERAGING 50 NIV AND 15 TO 20 IV CASES FROM LEBANON PER DAY. SINCE THEN, THE NUMBER HAS DROPPED TO ABOUT TWO-THIRDS THAT. ON AUGUST 15 AND 16 LEBANESE WHO APPLIED HERE HAD BEEN IN SYRIA BEFORE BORDER WAS "CLOSED." ON AUGUST 17, HOWEVER, WE SAW SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN OVERALL NUMBER OF LEBANESE APPLICANTS,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 05471 181025Z

PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT HAD FINAL APPOINTMENTS FOR IV

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

ISSUANCE. INCREASE WAS DUE LARGELY TO THOSE WHO HAD CROSSED WITHIN PREVIOUS 18 HOURS. OBVIOUSLY, NEW POLICY HAS MADE CROSSING MORE DIFFICULT BUT NEW UPWARD TREND INDICATES THAT WHERE THERE IS URGENT NEED FOR TRAVEL TO SYRIA, SUCH AS FOR IV ISSUANCE, APPLICANTS HAVE FOUND A WAY TO GET ACROSS.

3. THERE IS ALSO LARGE CONTINGENT OF BEIRUT ARMENIANS NOW STAYING WITH RELATIVES AND FRIENDS IN ALEPPO AND DAMASCUS WHO ARE BEGINNING PRESENT THEIR APPLICANTS. (NOTE: FORTY PERCENT OF BEIRUT WORKLOAD, WE UNDERSTAND, WAS GENERATED BY ARMENIAN APPLICANTS.)

4. POST IS MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO EXPEDITE VISA ISSUANCE, PARTICULARLY OF IV'S. REQUEST FOR FILES, ALL VISA NUMBERS AND CLEARANCES ARE BEING DONE BY TELEX. ALL THOSE WHO INQUIRE ABOUT PETITION PROCESS BY RELATIVES IN US ARE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE RELATIVES HAVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITION APPROVAL SENT TO EMBASSY BY INS BY TELEX. EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO TAKE ACCEPTABLE SECONDARY DOCUMENTS FOR PRCOESSING.

5. IN AUGUST POST ISSUED 72 IV'S, 35 OF WHICH WERE TO RECENT LEBANESE REFUGEES. THIS MONTH WE EXPECT TO ISSUE 200 TO 250. ON BASIS OF ESTIMATED DEAMAND, WE PREDICT ISSUANCE LEVEL COULD REACH 350-400 WITHIN NEXT THRITY DAYS. TO DO THIS, WE WILL NEED THREE ADDITIONAL LOCAL POSITIONS AND ASSIGNMENT OF EXPERIENCED VISA OFFICER TO REPLACE FSO KARLA SMITH WHO LEAVES BEFORE END OF MONTH. BEIRUT HAS ALREADY BEEN REQUESTED TO SEND ONE EXPERIENCED FSL SECRETARY WHICH WE WOULD USE FOR IV WORKLOAD. FOR REASONS OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND TO KEEP BALANCE IN CONSULATE BETWEEN LEBANESE AND SYRIAN EMPLOYEES, THE OTHER TWO ADDITIONAL EXMPLOYEES SHOULD BE SYRIAN.

6. PRESENT STAFF OF CONSULATE CONSISTS OF THREE PERMANENT SYRIAN FSL'S, THREE TDY BEIRUT FSL'S, ONE PERMANENT CONSULAR OFFICER AND TWO TDY CONSULAR OFFICERS. SINCE WE ANTICIPATE CARRY-OVER EFFECT EVEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DAMASC 05471 181025Z

AFTER BEIRUT RESUMES VISA SERVICES, WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE ONE SYRIAN AS ADDITIONAL PERMANENT STAFF. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT BEIRUT HAS RELEASED NUMBER OF ITS LOCAL POSITIONS TO NEA.)

7. WE WILL DISCUSS WITH REDDEN OUR NEEDS IN DETAIL WHEN HE ARRIVES AND SUBMIT FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS. THE FOREGOING IS TO ALERT THE DEPARTMENT TO WHAT WE SEE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

AS MINIMUM TO MEET ANTICIPATED DEMAND FOR EXPEDITED SERVICES.

8. IN MEANTIME, DEPARTMENT SHOULD ENSURE THAT QUALIFIED VISA OFFICER IS ASSIGNED WITHOUT DELAY TO REPLACE SMITH AND THAT URGENT REQUEST FOR FORMS (SEE DAMASCUS 4989) IS MET ASAP. AS PRESENT WE ARE ALMOST OUT OF ESSENTIAL FORMS FOR VISA PROCESSING AND FINDING IT INCREASINGLY AIFFICULT TO BEG OR BORROW SAME FROM NEARBY POSTS.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: TIMELY REPLACEMENT OF SMITH AND EARLY SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL FORMS FOR VISA PROCESSING. MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC05471
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760316-0882
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760844/aaaabllv.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 190983
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE CRISIS AND CONSULAR WORKLOAD IN DAMASASCUS
TAGS: CGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006